1st

Letter from Scotland:

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Together with two Proclamations, the one againſt Miniſters not Praying for Their Majeſties King *Willam* and Queen *Mary*. The other for a Solemn National Monthly-Faſt

Licenſed May the 7th, *J. F.* 1692.

SIR, *Edenburgh, April* 30.

I AM ſorry to find by yours, that in *England* you have no very good Opinion of us here, in this critical Juncture; but allow me to tell you, that though you have more Strength than we, we ſeem at leaſt to have as great Zeal. I ſhall give you only the bare Matter of Fact. The Chancellor having an Expreſs from Mr. *Johnſton* our Secretary at *London*, called the Council, and imparted to them Her Majeſties Pleaſure, for putting the Kingdom in a poſture of Defence, that we might not be ſurprized in caſe our Enemies from abroad ſhould make any attempt upon our Coaſt, or in our Neighbourhood, as it ſeems they intended; upon which the Council, in two or three meetings, did what belong'd to them to do, in the following particulars.

The Commander in chief of the Forces had immediately Orders to poſt them ſo, as that they could conveniently and ſpeedily meet upon occaſion; and in order to this, a Thouſand Horſe and Dragoons are to lye at *Edinburgh*, or not far from it.

The Governors and Commanders of Caſtles and Forts were ſent for, and Enquiry made what Stores and Proviſions they had in them, and Orders given to furniſh them with Proviſions for ſix Months, and with all neceſſary Ammunition; for which end ſuch quantities of Powder and other Ammunition as were to be had here, were order'd to be bought, and Orders were ſent over the Kingdom to the other Towns, for ſending to the Council an account of what Powder or other Ammunition was any where to be found: And in the mean while, the Magiſtrates of the place were order'd to take care, that none of it be ſold without their Authority.

Upon ſome Information which the Council receiv'd, particular care hath been taken of the Caſtle of *Edinburgh*, by removing all ſuſpected and unneceſſary People out of it, and by putting one of the inferiour Officers under an Arreſt. Upon information that many diſaffected People were come to Town, and ſome lately from abroad, the Gates of the Town were ſhut, and a general Search was made, and ſome few apprehended; but for the greater ſecrecy in time coming, the Council ſigned a Warrant to the *Chancellor*, to ſeize on the Arms and Horſes of perſons whom he ſhould judge diſaffected, and ſuch perſons themſelves, whom he ſhould keep in Cuſtody till they were preſented by him to the Council at its next meeting. The Magiſtrates of this City were called for, and the care of the ſame recommended to them, particularly, to double their Guards, and to have the Names of all thoſe that come hither every night, and that are not Inhabitants, to be brought to them; and that the Magiſtrates conſider thoſe Names, and deliver to the Chancellor at leaſt once every week Liſts of ſuch of them as are ſuſpected or unknown. The Council hath likewiſe ordered, That Fencible-men, and Heretors, (that is, as you call 'em, the Gentry and richeſt ſort of Freeholders) all over the *Kingdom*, to be in a readineſs with their Horſes and Arms to meet under their ſeveral Commanders upon Advertiſement given them, either by particular Order, or by the ſignal of Fires upon Beacons, which are order'd to be kindled upon the firſt appearance of a Fleet on the Coaſt. Letters are alſo ſent to all the Members of Council, requiring them to attend; and the Council or Committees of Council are to ſit every day during the preſent Alarms.

The Council being inform'd, that ſome diſaffected Church-men prayed either for the late Government, or not for this, or in ſuch ambiguous words, that their meaning was clear enough to be underſtood they meant the late King, ordered the Proclamation which I ſend you incloſed to be publiſh'd. The Council had publiſh'd the other Proclamation, which I alſo ſend you, ſome time before; but I ſend it to ſhew you, that the generality of our Church-men are well inclin'd.

Thus, Sir, whatever Zeal you in *England* may have inwardly, we do hitherto at leaſt ſhew as much.

'Tis true, there are *Diſcontents* and *Diviſions* among us, but the ſubject of them is either the leſſer concerns of what generally we take to be Religion, and for which ſometimes *we* may indeed *conſiderately* enough *venture*, but ſure, will ne'r in a plain caſe throw away the greater; or it is Remains of Animoſities from the memory of the Violences of the late Reigns; but to endeavour to bring back thoſe Reigns, were an odd way of reſenting ſuch Violences, and which one would think no man in theſe Kingdoms, that has either Senſe or Honeſty, ſhould be guilty of. I am *Sir*,——

A Proclamation Anent Miniſters not Praying for Their Majeſties, King *William* and Queen *Mary*.

WIlliam *and* Mary *by the Grace of God, King and Queen of Great* Britain, France *and* Ireland *Defenders of the Faith. To Macers of Our Privy Council, Meſſengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly and ſeverally, ſpecially conſtitute* Greeting: *Foraſmuch, as albeit, by the Act of the Meeting of Eſtates of this our Antient Kingdom, Dated the 13th day of* April, 1689, *Our Leidges were Certified, not to own or acknowledge the late K.* James *the Second for their King, but that they, and every one of them, ſhould render their dutiful Obedience to Us; and in particular, that all the Miniſters of the Goſpel within this Kingdom ſhould publickly Pray for Us, as King and Queen of this Realm, under the Pains and Certifications ſpecified in the ſaid Act: As alſo, We with Advice of Our Eſtates of Parliament, by Our Act of 22th of* July, 1690. *Ordained the ſaid Act and Proclamation of the Eſtates of this our Kingdom, to be put to further Execution, againſt all ſuch Miniſters who had not given Obedience thereto, by praying for Us, in manner mentioned in the ſaid Act: And that the Lords of Our Privy Council ſhould proceed therein, or impower other Magiſtrates to do the ſame within their reſpective bounds, as they ſhould ſee Cauſe. Yet nevertheleſs, the ſaid Acts have been ſo far from receiving the punctual and exact Obedience due to them, That many Preachers have either preſumed wholly to neglect Praying for Us, as King and Queen of this Realm, conform to the ſaids Acts, or at leaſt have ſo far teſtified a want of Ingenuity and Plainneſs required in a Duty of this Nature, that they make uſe of ſuch ambiguous and unclear Expreſſions in their Prayers, that the hearers cannot diſtinctly know they Pray for Us, to the Great Diſparagement of the ſaids Laws, and contempt of Our Authority. Therefore We, with Advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, do ſtrictly require and Command the Sheriff of the ſeveral Shires, Bailies of Regalities, Stewarts of Stewarties, and Magiſtrats of the Burghs Royal of this Kingdom within their Bounds and Juriſdictions reſpective, to make due and exact tryal what Miniſters Preaching in Churches or Meeting-Houſes, within their reſpective bounds, Pray not ordinarly for Us, in ſuch circumſtantiat Terms, as their Hearers may diſtinctly know that they Pray for Us, as King and Queen of this Realm; and for that effect, We with the Advice foreſaid, Hereby Require and Impower the ſeveral Magiſtrats reſpective foreſaids, to conveen and call before them ſuch perſons as they ſhall think fit, to give Information and Evidence againſt ſuch Miniſters Preaching in Churches or Meeting-Houſes, who fail in their Obedience to the Acts above-mentioned, in manner above ſet down, and that the ſaids Magiſtrats reſpective, Tranſmit under their Hands, to the Clerks of Our Privy Council, betwixt and the firſt day of* June *next to come, (for ſuch as are on this ſide of the Water of* Tay, *and the fifteenth day of the ſaid Month, for theſe on the other ſide thereof,) the Names of the ſeveral Miniſters offending in the Premiſſes, with the place of their reſidence, and the original Information and Evideuce they have received and taken againſt them, to the Effect they may be Proſecute with all Rigor, and the Penalties and Certifications in the ſaids Laws contained, juſtly Inflicted and Executed againſt them. With Certification to the ſaids reſpective Magiſtrats who fail herein, they ſhall be repute as Conivers at, and Abettors of the ſaids Offenders, and negligent in the Execution and performance of their Offices and Duty committed to them, and proſecute as ſuch accordingly. Our Will is Herefore, and we Charge you ſtrictly and Command, That incontiment theſe Our Letters ſeen, ye paſs to the Mercat croſs of* Edinburgh, *and to the remanent Mercat-croſſes of the Head-Burghs of the ſeveral Sheres of this Our Antient Kingdom, and there; in Our Name and Authority, by open Proclamation, make intimation of the Premiſſes: And Ordains theſe Preſents to be Printed and Publiſhed in manner foreſaid.*

Given under our Signet at *Edinburgh*, the twenty eighth day of *April*. And of our Reign, the fourth Year, 1692.

Per actum Dominorum Secreti Concilii,
In Supplementum Signeti.

GILB. ELIOT, *Cls. Sti, Concilii.*

God ſave King William **and Queen** Mary.

A Proclamation, for a Solemn, National, Monthly Faſt.

WILLIAM *and* MARY, *by the Grace of God, King and Queen of* Great-Britain, France, *and* Ireland, *Defenders of the Faith; to Our Lyon King at Arms, and his Brethren Heraulds, Macers of our Privy Council, Purſevants, Meſſengers at Arms, our Sheriffs in that part, conjunctly, and ſeverally, ſpecially conſtitute, greeting: Foraſmuch as ſeveral Synods, and others of this Church, have applyed to the Lords of our Privy Council, that they would interpoſe their Authority, for indicting and keeping a ſolemn National Faſt and Humiliation, in all the Kirks and Meeting-houſes of this our ancient Kingdom, to implore the Bleſſing of the Lord upon us in our Counſels and Undertakings, in defence of the true Reformed Religion, and of theſe Lands, and relief of the Oppreſſed abroad; and eſpecially, that God would countenance Us in the preſent War, preſerving our Royal Perſon, and giving Succeſs to our Arms by Sea and Land, and preſerve and eſtabliſh the Proteſtant Religion at home and abroad. Therefore We, with Advice of the Lords of our Privy Council, do hereby command and enjoyn, That the ſaid ſolemn Faſt and Humiliation, for the Ends above ſet down, be religiouſly obſerved by all perſons within this Kingdom, both in Churches and Meeting-houſes, upon the 25th day of* May *next, being the laſt* Wedneſday *of that Month, and thereafter monthly, upon the laſt* Wedneſday *of each Month, until the laſt* Wedneſday *of* September *next* inclusive. *And ordains all Miniſters, either in Kirks or Meeting-houſes, to read theſe Preſents publickly from the Pulpit, a* Sunday *or two before the firſt day appointed for keeping the ſaid Faſt and Humiliation, and upon a* Sunday *before each laſt* Wedneſday, *during the ſpace foreſaid. And to the effect that this ſo neceſſary and religious a Duty may be publickly performed, and punctually obſerved, and Our pleaſure in the Premiſſes known. Our Will is, and We charge you ſtraitly, and command, that incontinent, theſe our Letters ſeen, ye paſs to the Marcat-croſs of* Edenburgh, *and remanent Marcat Croſſes of the Head-burghs of the ſeveral Shires and Stewartries within this Kingdom, and in Our Name and Authority, make publication of the Premiſſes, that none may pretend Ignorance. And We ordain our Sollicitor to diſpatch Copies hereof, to the Sheriffs of the ſeveral Shires and Stewarts of the Stewartries, and their Deputes or Clerks, to be by them publiſhed at the Marcat-Croſſes of the Head-Burghs, upon receipt thereof, and immediately ſent to the ſeveral Miniſters, both in Kirks and Meeting-houſes, to the effect they may read, and intimat the ſame from their Pulpits, and may ſeriouſly exhort all perſons to a ſincere and devote Obſervance thereof, as they will be anſwerable at their Peril: And ordains theſe Preſents to be printed, and publiſhed in manner aforeſaid.*

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